GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3617
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
NON-IODIZED SALT
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the use of non-iodized salt causes many diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith name of diseases;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to popularize the use of iodized salt recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have launched any programme regarding use of iodized salt on World Deficiency Day; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(f): The deficiency of iodine in the diet can lead to diseases like goiter, abortion, still-birth, mental retardation, deaf-mutism, squint, dwarfism, neuro-motor defects etc. Consumption of iodized salt has been acknowledged as the cheapest and most effective way of providing iodine to the population as a whole. The Government is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme to control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders throughout the country.In order to popularize the use of iodized salt, the Government have intensified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities through media publicity. Every year, 21st October is observed as Global Iodine Deficiency disorders Day.On this day, this year, the importance of iodized salt has been re-emphasized through various IEC activities.